

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, XM, BL

SUBJ: REACTION TOTRADE REFORM ACT

SUMMARY. BOLIVIAN REACTION TO PASSAGE OF U.S. TRADE REFORM ACT SO FAR STIMULATED PRINCIPALLY BY INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPORTS WHICH NOW BEING GIVEN INCREASING LOCAL PLAY. END SUMMARY.

1. FON MIN GUZMAN INITIALLY REFUSED JANUARY 7 TO COMMENT ON LAW, STATING HE HAS REQUESTED COPY OF ITS TEXT FROM EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. HE HAS SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD PRESS THAT HE REGRETS DISCRIMINATORY ASPECTS OF NEW LAW. BELOW BANNER HEADLINE IN EL DIARIO JANUARY 9, GUZMAN QUOTED AS EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLE OF SPECIAL PREFERENCES BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES BUT ADVISING THAT DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT HINDERS LAW'S GOOD PURPOSE. MINISTRY SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED WITHOUT COMMENT THAT VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT HAS SENT GOB LETTER CALLING FOR MEETING TO CREATE SOLID LATIN AMERICAN OPPOSITION TO LAW.

2. PRESS ITSELF HAS FOUND ISSUE GOOD COPY. USING MOSTLY LATIN AND AFP MATERIAL, LEADING DAILIES HAVE GIVEN FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT JANUARY 8 AND 9 TO VENEZUELAN, ECUADORIAN, COLOMBIAN AND ANDEAN JUNTA REACTIONS. PRESS HAS ALSO PLAYED U.S. EXECUTIVES' DESIRE AMEND LAW, TYPICALLY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENCIA JANUARY 8 WITH MID-FRONT PAGE HEADLINE OVER AFP

STORY, "KISSINGER ASKS AMENDMENT OF TRADE LAW."

3. ONLY CATHOLIC MORNING DAILY, PRESENCIA JANUARY 9 HAS ADDRESSED CONTROVERSY SO FAR IN EDITORIAL. PAPER SHOWED LITTLE APPRECIATION OF LAW'S MAIN INTENT, BUT COMPLAINED THAT LAW PUTS NEW OBSTACLES IN ALREADY LESS THAN GOOD U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS AND ENDANGERS HOPES OF MARCH MF. LAW ALSO RAISES DANGER THAT IN NEW MIDDLE EAST CRISIS VENEZUELA, MEXICO AND ECUADOR MIGHT RETALIATE AGAINST U.S. EDITORIAL CALLS FOR LATIN UNITY.

4. COMMENT: BOLIVIAN OFFICIAL REACTION HAS SO FAR BEEN CAUTIOUS, ALTHOUGH OFFICIALS OBVIOUSLY FEEL PRESSURE TO LINE UP WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICANS. AT HIS REQUEST WE HAVE GIVEN FON OFF OFFICIAL ENGLISH TEXT GSP PART OF ACT. PRESS TREATMENT HAS TO DEGREE BEEN MIXED WITH STORIES REPORTING ALLEGED U.S. THREAT OF FORCE AGAINST ARAB OIL PRODUCERS. FON MIN CONSEQUENTLY FOUND NECESSARY TO STATE IN EL DIARIO ARTICLE JANUARY 9 THAT AS PEACEFUL NATION, BOLIVIA BELIEVES "VIOLENCE CANNOT BE REPLY IN ANY SITUATION" AND THAT BOLIVIA HAS NOT BEEN UNDER ANY PRESSURE TO LOWER ITS HYDROCARBON PRICES AND "WOULD NOT PERMIT" ANY SUCH PRESSURE. PARKER

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